

## POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

### SUSTAINABILITY SUB-COMMITTEE

WOODHILL HOUSE, ABERDEEN, 9 NOVEMBER, 2016

**Present:** Councillors I S Davidson (Chair), C C Buchan, G J Clark, L Clark, M Findlater, (as substitute for Councillor A S Buchan), M A Ford, and F Hood (as substitute for Councillor K Farquhar).

**Apologies:** Councillors A S Buchan, K Farquhar, and P Oddie, and H W Vernal and A S Grant (ex officio).

**Officers:** Head of Economic Development, Infrastructure Services; Committee Officer (Jan McRobbie), Business Services; Fleet Manager, Infrastructure Services; ICT Support Manager, Business Services; Procurement Adviser (Stuart Calderwood), Business Services; Roads Policy and Asset Manager, Infrastructure Services; Strategy Manager (Transportation), Infrastructure Services; Sustainability and Climate Change Co-ordinator, Infrastructure Services; and Sustainable Development Officer (Climate Change), Infrastructure Services.

#### 1. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No interests were declared by any member of the Sub-Committee, in terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct.

#### 2. PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY

In making decisions on the following items of business, the Sub-Committee **agreed**, in terms of Section 148 of the Equality Act 2010:-

- (1) to have due regard to the need to:-
  - (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
  - (b) advance equality of opportunity between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and
  - (c) foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it, and
- (2) to consider, where an equality impact assessment had been provided, its contents and to take those into consideration when reaching a decision.

#### 3. MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE OF 31 AUGUST, 2016

There was circulated and **noted** the Minute of Meeting of the Sub-Committee of 31 August, 2016.

In respect of item 4, the Chair of the Committee reported that a letter, seeking support on the climate change aware budget plans, had been sent to the Co-Leaders of the Council. The approach had been welcomed, with a commitment expressed to ensure that the Council consider climate change implications in all it does, and in addition, that they would contact the Minister to brief him on Aberdeenshire's innovative approach to budgeting. No response had, as yet, been received from the Chief Executive.

The Sub-Committee **noted** and **welcomed** the updates provided.

#### 4. CLIMATE CHANGE SERVICE ACTION REPORTING

With reference to the Minute of Meeting of 31 August, 2016, Item 6, (page ,) the Sub-Committee heard from Fleet Manager, Infrastructure Services; ICT Support Manager, Business Services; Procurement Adviser (Stuart Calderwood), Business Services; Roads Policy and Asset Manager, Infrastructure Services and Strategy Manager (Transportation), Infrastructure Services on the draft Climate Change Action Plan, to be considered by the Policy & Resources Committee.

The Strategy Manager, Transportation, provided updates on service by service review of business mileage with transfer of target to services; the replacement of existing pool vehicles with extended-range electric vehicles; the Requirement for all drivers including contractors be trained in ECODRIVING techniques; the Corporate hierarchy of permissible business travel; future evaluation of travel saving accrued through the role of out WorkSmart across services, linked to a staff travel survey to be held in 2017; developing, implementing and monitoring of travel plans for new offices; the continuing development of campaigns and promotions to change individual travel to work patterns; the introduction, and assessment of the performance of electric vehicles (EV) to car park operatives as a pilot, to support Council's commitment to install electric charging points in car parks in all main settlements in Aberdeenshire; and the rolling out of electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure for larger office and depot locations.

The Sub-Committee heard from the Fleet Manager, Infrastructure, of progress on reviewing vehicle efficiency in terms of usage, future usage, and fleet makeup, in the context of the 44% target; the planned 2017 evaluation of the fleet to consider additional new infrastructure to support new technology/fuels; the ongoing assessments of the Revised Vehicle Utilisation and Replacement Strategy; the annual review, by all services, of operational routes and use of existing vehicle stock; and the continuing introduction of new technologies such as electric vehicles and alternatives fuels (including bio-methane, hydrogen, and LNG) where appropriate and practicable.

The Roads Policy and Asset Manager spoke of progress with replacing existing SON/T lanterns of 150w or over, SOX lanterns of 90w or over, and all mercury lanterns with modern white light units incorporating part night dimming; trimming of modern streetlight circuits which do not need warming up periods; and implementation of the changed specification for new developments to modern white light units, including partial night dimming.

The Procurement Advisor updated Members on progress with the development and establishment of a climate change aware procurement strategy, to be complete by 31st December 2016 and of works to include in contract consideration a Sustainable Procurement Duty, which cannot be mandatory, as part of an ongoing continuous improvement agenda.

The Sub-Committee was updated by the ICT Support Manager of the pilot phase of the Unified Communications project, including a roll out of Skype enabled meeting rooms and Skype telephony replacing traditional land lines – it was expected that these initiatives, together with WorkSmart, would transform business models of staff travel; of the migration of previously Council owned data centres to a joint provision, with Aberdeen City Council, located at BrightSolid in the Lang Stracht, being progressed with a review of business systems, looking at cloud provision; and of the continued exploration, despite no business case being made following consideration of a pilot scheme, of energy management systems for networked devices.

Members also heard updates from the Sustainability and Climate Change Co-ordinator on behalf of the Public Transportation Manager, Principal Accountant (Chris Smith), the Head of Resources and Performance (Education & Children's Services), and Education Support Officer, (Christine McLennan) in respect of action points under their remit.

In respect of the Introduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions target based approach to selecting bus contractors, this would, following tender awards in 2015, require a phased approach, with the next major tenders due in 2019/20 but with revised procurement assessments in terms of quality and price; and of the monitoring of school transport being used as a model for the monitoring of other passenger services, from November 2016.

The Identification and communication of most appropriate and suitable funding streams or source of finance to fund carbon reduction and renewable energy actions/projects had now been allied to carbon reduction policy, strategic objectives, and specific projects, such as Energy from Waste and the purchase of street lighting lanterns.

A team had been established to progress school estate rationalisation, with energy, CO<sub>2</sub>, and sustainable development issues explicit; the work included revising school catchment areas to encourage greater walking to school, and the adoption of a new metric (SFT) for new build which would reduce floor space. The disposal of properties potentially identified as surplus would be discussed as part of this process.

The Sub-Committee heard of progress in refreshing the Eco-Schools initiative, incorporating work with Keep Scotland Beautiful, as part of the How Good is Our Schools quality improvement approach to education.

After detailed discussion of Eco-driving courses, and their availability to Members; the merits of electric/ hydrogen vehicles as opposed to using bigger electric batteries; the developing efficiencies, in terms of range, of EV cars; the merits of the various sizes of electric vehicle recharging points; the piloting of electric bicycles to augment motor vehicles in the Council transport pool; the barriers to effective travel surveying, or route optimisation, of limited telematics in some vehicles; the possible merits of reviving previous consideration of the establishment of a council wind energy source in the context of the current project looking at low carbon travel hubs; the increase in number of vehicles require to support various services across the Council; the increased awareness of sustainability issues which will be generated by the carbon accounting approach to budgeting; the consideration of particulate reductions as a CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent saving; and the possible links between Fairtrade and eco-schools.

The Sub-Committee **agreed**:-

- (a) that officers consider, in looking at low carbon travel hubs, the location and availability of existing wind turbines; and
- (b) in all other respects, to note and commend the updates provided.

## **5. PUBLIC SECTOR CLIMATE CHANGE DUTIES REPORTING SUBMISSION 2015/16**

There had been circulated a report dated 27 October, 2016 by the Director of Infrastructure Services, requesting Members' consideration of the Council's completed submission on Public Sector Climate Change Duties, to the Sustainable Scotland Network, on behalf of the Scottish Government, for 2015/16 reporting year.

Members heard from the Climate Change Coordinator of the revision of the previous Excel spread sheet to more accessible word document, there was discussion of the benefits of being able to compare year to year reports; the declining trend, masked by constantly increasing scope; the ordering of the priorities listed; and the increased ownership by services of the duties in the report; the inability to contrast year on year in property new build (such as the former and the current Ellon Academies) due to the increasing emphasis on multi-use space, which extended usage hours and therefore costs, even in more energy efficient buildings.

The Sub-Committee **agreed:-**

- (a) to commend the Climate Change Co-ordinator and the Sustainable Development Officer (Climate Change) for their work in collating the submission across services; and
- (b) to welcome the updates provided.